



Security Council

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**Identical letters dated 4 April 2017 from the Chargé d'affaires
a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the
United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the
President of the Security Council**

The band of armed terrorist groups active in the Khan Shaykhun area, along with their regional and Western masters and their media affiliates, have spread news regarding a poison gas attack in the town of Khan Shaykhun, in Idlib governorate. As usual, and as has been their habit over the last four years, those parties have concocted accusations against the armed forces of the Syrian Arab Republic.

The Syrian Arab Republic categorically denies having used poison gases in Khan Shaykhun or in any other Syrian town or village. The Syrian Arab Army does not have any type of chemical weapons, has not used them in the past, will not use them in the future, and is making no attempt whatsoever to acquire them. Indeed, the Syrian Arab Army has not used such weapons even in its fiercest battles against the armed terrorist organizations.

The Syrian Arab Republic stresses that, since it acceded to the Chemical Weapons Convention in 2013, it has implemented all of its obligations under the Convention. Rather, the armed terrorist groups and their masters are the ones who contrived those and other events with a view to subsequently accusing the Syrian State of being responsible for them. Over the last few years, the Syrian Arab Republic has provided the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, the Security Council in New York and a number of allied States with detailed and accurate data. In particular, over the last few weeks, it has submitted memorandums stating that armed terrorist groups were bringing poisonous substances into Syria, including Idlib governorate, from such neighbouring States as Turkey, with a view to using them in the future.

The band of State sponsors of terrorism, including the President of the Turkish regime, the ministers for foreign affairs of certain European States hostile to Syria, and the media that work at their behest, immediately scrambled to mount a new campaign against Syria. This shows that they have an underlying scheme, namely, to turn back the clock, reopen the so-called Syrian chemical issue and start it from scratch. The aim is to cover up the crimes of the terrorist groups and to conceal their lack of good faith in the discussions that have taken place in Astana and Geneva. The discussions have demonstrated that the groups have no genuine desire to reach a peaceful solution to the Syrian crisis. This latest campaign comes after the Syrian Arab Army and allied and supporting forces achieved several victories in their war on terror over the last few days and weeks. These calumnies also precede a European Union meeting on Syria, which is due to take place tomorrow. Their



purpose is therefore to launch a campaign against Syria and justify the hostile decisions that will be taken at the meeting.

Once again, the Syrian Arab Republic strongly condemns the crime committed by armed terrorist groups in Khan Shaykhun. This crime is, moreover, part of a shabby ploy for political gain to the detriment of the children and women of our Syrian people. The Syrian Arab Republic condemns the use of such poisonous substances by any party, anywhere, under any conditions, and for any reason. The Syrian Arab Republic emphasizes that none of those fabricated claims will deter it from pursuing its war against terrorism, its organizations and its supporters in Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and certain States members of the European Union, or from working to reach a peaceful solution to the Syrian crisis. Syria calls on the international community to support its counter-terrorism efforts and reject these latest trumped-up allegations, which are the work of parties that have no concern for the welfare or peace of Syria or Syrians.

(Signed) Mounzer Mounzer
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